

It is my belief and has been told to me many times the point of the new standards is to allow students the ability to have more depth, not breadth in content. This draft of the history standards has in turn actually guaranteed little to no depth in study and instead a race to finish all the material included. I have taught 7th and 8th grade history for the past 13 years and this draft seems to be just more of the same. Asking to cover this much material with all the "advice" included in the draft is not only impossible, but also quite idiotic. To complete the standards for either 7th or 8th grade the way they have been presented would take at least a year and a half or more for a good teacher, much less an average one.

This seems to me just another attempt to please people that there are history standards available, when history is continually treated as the black sheep of education. Without any acknowledgement that our jobs also include teaching reading comprehension, having students continuously writing more advanced material, study skills, and a multiple of other abilities on top of these standards ignores a majority of our jobs as history teachers. Although I would love to give a multitude of examples from my reading of the standards, I really don't have the time.

I will leave you with an actual quote from the 8th grade standards; "Covering parts of three centuries, the historical content outlined in this chapter is both substantial and substantive, which poses a significant challenge for teachers, with limited time for in-depth study." (pg. 313) Just more of the same.

I know your task in creating these standards is not very easy, but this attempt only seems to add more work instead of streamlining the history standards.

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